

Pacific Pride

For the Families and Friends of Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU Command Element



Vol. 1, Issue 5

March 2006



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Command Element sharpens skills



Marines of the Command Element learn how to operate the AN/PRC-119 field radio March 25.

ABOARD THE USS PELELIU— Command Element Marines and sailors conducted convoy operations, crew served weapons and communications refresher training aboard the USS Peleliu March 24-25.

The purpose of the training was to get the

Marines and sailors reacquainted with weapons they learned about during basic training and to cross train them in applying tactics and using equipment found outside of their military occupational specialty, said CWO3 Robert A. Garcia, nuclear, biological and chemical force protection officer.

Weapons, communications, motor transport and force protection experts from the Command Element and weapons company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment provided training that will serve as a foundation for further training the Marines and sailors will receive when they arrive in the Persian Gulf region next month.

Sgt. Jon V. Nerva, vehicle commander, combined anti-armor platoon, weapons company, BLT 1/4, from Santo Domingo, N.M., and Cpl. Samuel Schauer, armorer, command element, provided the weapons refresher training for the Marines and sailors of the command element. The training included clearing and conducting preventive maintenance and function checks on the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, M240G Medium Machine Gun and M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun.

Staff Sgt. Robert B. Callahan, motor transport maintenance chief, command element, trained Marines and sailors to conduct pre-convoy preventive maintenance checks and services on all humvees and trucks, while Sgt. Raul A. Reynoso, radio operator, command element, trained participants how to do preventive maintenance and conduct radio checks on the AN/PRC-119, the AN/PRC-113 field radios.

Garcia trained Marines on how to properly respond to convoy attacks, disabled vehicles and how to send contact reports, casualty evacuation, explosive ordnance disposal and quick reaction force link-up plan requests over the radio.

The Marines and sailors of the 11th MEU (SOC) as part of the Expeditionary Strike Group 3 are on a six-month deployment through the Western Pacific Ocean and Persian Gulf in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

From the Commanding Officer



Greetings from somewhere in the middle of the ocean! We passed through the famous Straits of Malacca recently and enjoyed a few days of liberty in the beautiful island nation of Singapore. It won't be long until we sail out of the U.S. Pacific Command area

of operations and enter into the U.S. Central Command area of operations. The Marines and Sailors of the MEU are all eagerly awaiting this since we will then be exempt from state and federal taxes!

Sailing west towards Iraq also means warmer, more humid weather. When the seas and winds allow, Command Element Marines are out on the flight deck, running in their combat gear, getting acclimated to the heat and the weight of their equipment. CE Marines are also in the gym lifting weights, in the hangar bay learning the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), or on the flight deck conducting weapons shoots.

Earlier this month we enjoyed what the Navy calls a 'steel beach,' or a barbeque on the flight deck. In addition to a meal of barbeque ribs and chicken, hamburgers and hotdogs, baked beans and corn on the cob, Marines and sailors were able to listen to a live band and partake in many other games and activities. One other highlight—Marines were authorized to wear civilian or physical fitness clothes instead of their uniforms.

Marines and sailors arrived off the coast of Townsville, Australia on March 13 and successfully conducted approximately five days worth of valuable sustainment training. The training is important to maintain the 11th MEU's mission readiness and enhance war-fighting skills, which will contribute to our overall success.

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Fiscal Chief named 11th MEU (SOC) NCO Of The Quarter

Sgt. Jaime M. Scrivens edged out some tough competition from some of the MEU's best noncommissioned officers to win the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Award in March. Scrivens, fiscal/comptroller chief, from Chicago, Ill., beat out the best Marines and sailors from the Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, MEU Service Support Group 11 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, the MEU's ground combat, service support and aviation support elements.

Scrivens is the consummate overachiever. While stationed at the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, she attended night school and earned a Masters in Business Administration from the University of California at Irvine in 2004. She earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from Northwestern University, in Evanston, Ill in 1998.

To compliment her civilian education, Scrivens attended the Marine Corps Comptroller Chief's Course and completed the Joint Education Program's Office Manager Apprenticeship Program. This has given her the skills to easily and effectively manage the 11th MEU's \$5.5 million operating funds budget.

Scrivens has completed 122 Marine Corps Institute distance learning courses. She holds a brown belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and has earned a first class on her physical fitness test. Scrivens is also an excellent shot. She scored a 50 at her last M16A2 Service Rifle range qualification. A score of 40 is considered expert. She is one tough Marine to beat.



Sgt. Jamie M. Scrivens, fiscal/comptroller chief, command element, is the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2007.



Scott is pictured here performing his regular duties as the 11th MEU's videographer aboard the Peleliu.

11th MEU (SOC) Videographer Named Wardroom Mess Person of the Month

Congratulations to Lance Cpl. Irick W. Scott on his selection as the Supply Department's Mess Person of the Month, while on mess duty in March.

According the citation, this selection distinguishes Scott as a true leader and outstanding performer among his peers. His superb leadership, professionalism and genuine dedication to duty ensured the Peleliu Supply Department set the standard for excellence and upheld their motto, "Anything, Anytime, Anywhere. Power through logistics."



Chaplain's Corner

Easter's Hope

Easter will be here before we know it. The MEU will be somewhere in the AOR. However, wherever we are, the message will be the same. Jesus is alive and has risen and is at work in our lives.

The Hollywood film director Cecil B. De Mille relates a story about himself reading a book while drifting in a canoe on a lake in Maine. For a brief moment he looked away from the work and down to the lake. There on the water were beetles at play.

De Mille observed one of the beetles crawl up the side of the boat. As the beetle got half way up, it attached the talons of its legs to the wooden side of the canoe and died. De Mille watched for a period of time and then turned back to his book. In about three hours De Mille looked down at the beetle. What he saw amazed him.

The beetle had dried up and its back had begun to crack open. As he watched something began to emerge from the crack. First, a small and moist head followed by wings. It was a beautiful butterfly.

De Mille was amazed. This beautiful creature began to move its wings. It took flight and then hovered over the water where the other beetles were at play. However, the beetles did not recognize the butterfly. They did not realize that it was the same beetle they had played with just three hours earlier.

De Mille took his finger and moved the dried-out shell of the beetle. It was like an empty tomb.

During this time of Easter, we can all recognize the similarity between the story of the water beetle and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christ died nailed to a cross. The water beetle died fastened to a boat. Jesus also underwent an amazing transformation three days after his death. The water beetle went through a similar change three hours after its death.

In the Gospels we are told that Jesus was not recognized by those who had been with him three days prior. The risen Christ had a glorified body and could move about the land. The beetle, could now fly and soar; no longer confined to crawl along the sea and land.

St. Paul tells us that we do not have to wait until we die to share in the life of Jesus. We all have the ability to do it right now. All we have to do is open our hearts and minds to Him. We can share in the Resurrection, at this moment. How?

Each time we love again after having our love rejected, we share in the resurrection. Each time we trust again after having our trust betrayed, we share in the resurrection. Each time we fall and fail and try again, we share in the resurrection. Each time we hope again after having our hope end in despair, we share in the resurrection. Each time we pick up the pieces, face the sun, and start again, we share in the resurrection.

Finally, the message of Easter is this: nothing can destroy us anymore; not pain, not sin, not rejection, not death. Christ can conquer all, if we put our faith in him. That's what Easter is all about. It's the fact that every Good Friday now has an Easter Sunday. That is to say, that without the cross there is no crown.

We do not have to wait until death to share in the resurrection, all we have to do is open our hearts to the grace that Jesus won for us on that first Easter Sunday.



Lt. Cmdr. Paul J. Shaughnessy, chaplain, and Sgt. Federico Rangel, supply clerk, burn off a few calories on elliptical machines during a workout aboard the USS Peleliu.

Command, cont. from page 1

Unfortunately, libo had to be cancelled due to Tropical Cyclone Larry, a Category 5 Cyclone.

Despite the disappointment, the Marines and sailors of the command element enjoyed their stay in Singapore. The rest and relaxation period was a welcome change before our operation tempo picks up as we plan our future missions.

Even though we still have quite a distance to sail before entering the Persian Gulf, our time aboard ship seems to be flying by very quickly. There is a lot of planning that is currently underway in regard to the various exercises we will be conducting. As soon as I get the authority to give you more information about what we will be doing during our time in the Persian Gulf, you have my promise that I will.

If you have any questions during the deployment, I encourage you to use the Key Volunteer Network. This is an excellent means to keep updated with information concerning the MEU. Also, visit the 11th MEU website at www.11meu.usmc.mil for the latest information. The website will be updated as much as possible during the deployment to keep friends and family informed of the MEU's activities.

Thank you for your continued support of the 11th MEU family.

Sincerely,

Col. J.W. Bullard
Commanding Officer

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S6 providing comm for MEU

By MSgt. Mathis B. Richard, S6 chief

More than one month has passed since our departure from San Diego and the MEU Marines have adjusted well to their new home aboard ship. For the past few weeks the Marines of S-6 have been providing the communications necessary for the MEU to function. This has required great effort, technical skill and ingenuity by all Marines of the S-6. In addition, the Marines have worked diligently to ensure that all of the Marines on ship have email accounts to keep in touch with their loved ones and telephone access to the outside world. Family is always on our minds and your emails, letters, and pictures are always much appreciated. This is most evident when looking at the Marines' berthing, which is filled with pictures and memorabilia from home.



Marines from communications platoon enjoys some early morning flak jacket physical training after departing Australia in March. The purpose of the training is to get the Marines used to wearing the heavy protective jackets and to acclimate the Marines to hot weather.

Although everyone is settled in, the thought of more than four months away from home is hard. With the first and second stops behind us and many others along the way, communications with our loved ones is on everyone's mind.

The S-6 platoon enjoyed a well-deserved rest while visiting Singapore. Most of us were simply glad just to be off the ship to enjoy the warm climate of the historic former British colony. Prior to Singapore, a small group of communicators flew from Hawaii to Australia to establish communications in support of our upcoming exercise. The four-day exercise was held in Townsville, Australia and focused on sustaining critical military skills as well as bilateral infantry training with Australian Defense Forces (ADF). The Marines provided outstanding communication support to the exercise and showed great flexibility in adjusting to changes. Regretfully, Cyclone Larry prevented the ship and most of the Marines from visiting Townsville, forcing the Expeditionary Strike Group out to sea early and westward toward US Central Command.

Training is a continuous effort on ship as we continue to prove why we are the premier fighting force in the world. We welcome the change in pace and the chance to display our skills that we have perfected over the last eight months. It may be true that we are under staffed and overworked, but we will continue to do more with less because every job within the Marine Expeditionary Unit is meaningful.

Thank you for all of your support and selfless devotion. All of us are keenly aware of your sacrifices in support of the Marine Expeditionary Unit and the nation as a whole.

Congratulations are in order for Marlena K. Helm for her promotion to sergeant and reenlistment for four years, Anthony R. Taylor for his promotion to corporal, Hector L. Otero Jr. for his meritorious promotion to corporal and Shane P. Evans for his promotion to lance corporal. We are proud of each of you and look forward to the "wet down" or promotion party in the future.

Cpl. Joshua D. Langston, radio operator, receives the Good Conduct Medal from 1st Lt. Michael R. Hallinan, assistant communications officer off the coast of Singapore April 1.



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S4 overcomes all to embark MEU

By Maj. Kevin C. Rosen, logistics officer
and GySgt. Rick Garcia, supply chief

Greetings from sea again! Last time I wrote I said we needed beer. Well, we just finished up our first port visit in Singapore, so we have taken care of the beer ration. Let me tell you what your Marines have been doing:

Capt. Ekborg is newly promoted but is still down to earth. Staff Sgt. Serrano, and Sgt. Lomeli got us to shore and back in Australia in great time despite many dilemmas. It's not often that a landing craft gets stuck or that the stern gate on the Peleliu breaks down in the middle of an off-load. These things happened, but our embarkers planned well and stayed one step ahead of the game and we were able to complete our offload within 48 hours. Now for the back-load, Mother Nature decided to throw us a curve ball in the form of Cyclone Larry. Larry was headed straight for us! So, we embarked all the equipment and personnel back in about 36 hours in order to get out of town before the Cyclone hit. Everyone in the MEU was relieved to get out of there safely.

The Supply section has been busy trying to get those things that people often forget about when they leave on deployment like printer cartridges. Hopefully these items will catch up to us when we get to our next destination. Congratulations to newly promoted Sgt. Rangell! He has been doing a great job, especially in assisting with Maintenance Management for the Command Element. We just wish we could get him to smile from time to time.

Sgt. Jaime M. Scrivens was fortunate enough to fly over to Australia and get stuck there along with the supply officer for an additional seven days due to a misfortune or in their case a lucky break in the weather. While in Australia, Sgt. Scrivens was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for the Command Element. Congratulations to her for a job well done!

Cpl. Brandon T. Dean has demonstrated the ability to perform two jobs at once, which was a complete surprise to all of us. The High Risk Personnel Protection training has kept him away from our shop for so long that Cpls. Jaime R. Hudson and Jason L. Kelley are actually becoming home sick because they don't have the third amigo around. Just kidding corporals.

Capt. Fleischhacker and Capt. Fitzgerald continue to their great work. Their efforts in Australia helped us succeed in getting all of our equipment to the training area and the Marines fed. Yes, we had to eat Australian MREs because ours did not show up on time. For their families, please ask them what it was like on Kwajalein, dealing with Gunner Kyzer, sitting out the cyclone, and buying airplane tickets.

As we continue our trek through the Pacific Ocean, we expect to do great things. We will do everything in our power to make our families proud. Keep the prayers and all the goodies coming. You are all in our prayers as we sail west. Semper Fidelis.



GySgt. Jose L. Coronado, 11th MEU (SOC) mess chief, and a sailor admire the cake baked for the Steel Beach Picnic aboard the USS Peleliu. The picnic was held to commemorate the Peleliu's crossing of the Equator. Marines and sailors listened to live rock music, enjoyed food and games during the sea-faring celebration.

Happy March Birthdays

1st Lt. Louis J. Daily
Sgt. Mauricio A. Febres
CWO3 Robert T. Garcia
Cpl. Andrew J. Heitzler
Lance Cpl. Michael R. Hetrick
Sgt. Mikel R. Latham
Cpl. Omar Lozano
Staff Sgt. George W. Mills
Sgt. Joseph A. Mondido

Cpl. Jonathan J. Montemayor
Cpl. Christopher K. Morgan-Ries
1st Lt. Sean M. Mulcahy
Staff Sgt. Kyle R. Oman
Cpl. Trisha L. Rodriguez
Maj. Kevin C. Rosen
Sgt. Michael D. Spiropoulou
Sgt. Stephanie S. Toomey

April Promotions

Maj. Edward J. Handler
Staff Sgt. Christopher H. Farnes
Staff Sgt. Mikel R. Latham
Sgt. Robert A. Moran
Sgt. Kisha S. Pollard
Sgt. Samuel A. Schauer II
Sgt. Walter F. Simonds
Sgt. Stephanie S. Toomey
Cpl. Marilyn M. Zeledon

With Ausie training in the past, S2 looks forward to Kuwait

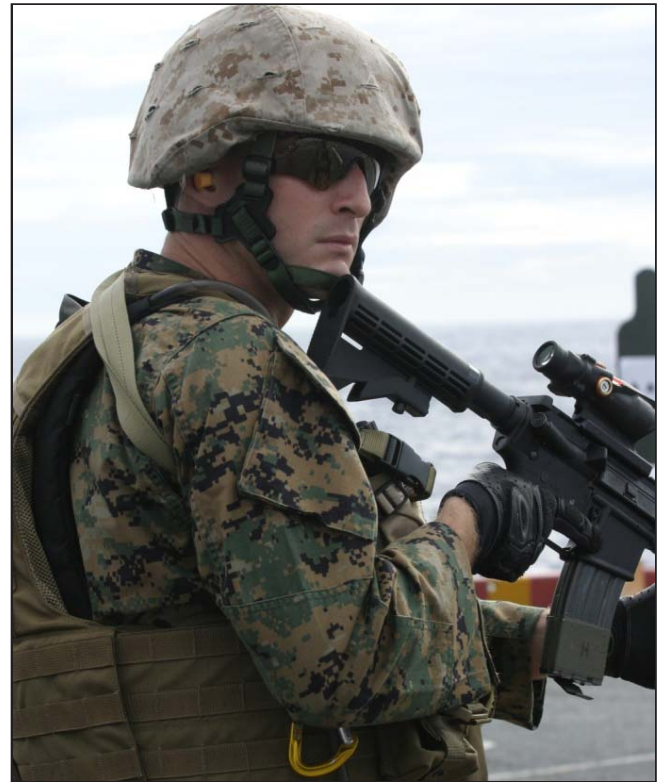
The first month underway was a busy one as we prepared for future exercises. When the Marines are off shift they are able to take care of personal items, exercise and even read a book or write home.

Following the Hawaii liberty port, the S2 shop was able to go ashore in Townsville, Australia, to test out some of our communications equipment and to practice shooting our rifles, however, due to a storm in the area, we were not able to enjoy liberty in Townsville. Instead we went to Singapore and had a great time.

The next month or so will be utilized to further prepare ourselves with basic fundamentals of motorcades, more small to heavy machine gun shoots and monitoring activity within our operating area. The Marines in the S2 are proud of the hard work they accomplished and the commitment they have to their loved ones.

The S2 would like to applaud the professional work from our topographical department for outstanding mapping and geographical support for current and future operations that the 11TH MEU (SOC) has been tasked with.

We would like to thank our spouses, family members, and friends back home for all of the support they have given us during this deployment. You are always in our thoughts.



Sgt. Trevor A. Hooper, shift leader, High Risk Personnel Protection platoon, prepares to engage his target during HRPP training on the flightdeck of the Peleliu.

Not even Mother Nature can dampen S1's spirit aboard the Peleliu

By Ed B. Tomlinson, S1 Officer

With the first month of the 11th MEU Westpac 06-1 deployment already behind us, the S1 section is happy to report that all is well and that we're keeping ourselves busy supporting the Marines and sailors of the command element and our major subordinate elements. Maintaining accurate accountability of personnel, assisting with official travel arrangements, and handling pay and entitlements continues to be our primary focus.

Immediately following our stop in Hawaii earlier this month, we successfully conducted an abandon ship drill to ensure all hands were fully aware of the proper emergency procedures. Following the drill, we spent the afternoon on the flight deck listening to the ship's band and participating in numerous MWR-provided events. It was a nice break from our daily routine.

Cpl. Josh Chapman was selected to be the S1 representative in Townsville, Australia, when the majority of the MEU

went ashore to conduct training. Mechanical conflicts prevented the remainder of the S-1 shop from going ashore to participate in weapons training.



Unfortunately, Mother Nature brought about weather conditions, in the form of a Category 5 Cyclone that required liberty to be called off.

Despite the disappointment, we had a great time in Singapore. Our activities included sightseeing, golfing, eating exotic cuisines, visiting nightclubs, and doing plenty of shopping. Now we're looking forward to the upcoming training in Kuwait.

Thank you all for keeping us in your thoughts and for sending plenty of email and our first big shipment of care packages that was waiting for us in Singapore. I'm sure you'll be getting a lot of elated responses for your generosity.

Cpl. Stephanie T. Bliss, postal clerk, and Lance Cpl. Brittney L. Carrington, administration clerk, pose for a picture during the ship's Steel Beach Picnic on the flight deck of the USS Peleliu.

Medical keeps Command Element Marines healthy during work, play

By HMCS(FMF/SW/AW) Michael J. Smith, medical planner

Snakes and Spiders and Smallpox, oh my! Medical readiness continues to be the focus of action for the Command Element Medical Department. Only one day after leaving San Diego the medical department began immunizations and medical training in earnest. HM2 Don Bradshaw (aka The Shot Guy) was delivering his usual doses of Anthrax, Typhoid, and who knows what else. Concurrently with that, Senior Chief Smith was delivering educational classes on first aid kits, Emergency Escape Breathing Devices, and the new Combat Application Tourniquet.

Once the initial round of shots and classes were given, it was time for some liberty in Hawaii. Medical readiness doesn't just apply to the field though, and briefings were prepared to inform our Marines and sailors about possible health risks while in Hawaii.

After a quick night in Hawaii, Senior Chief departed with the Advanced Party to Australia. While there, he coordinated with the Australian Army's 3rd Brigade Medical planner on environmental issues and casualty evacuation plans to support the MEU's sustainment training. Additionally, he made trips to the Townsville hospital and other clinics in the local area. He quickly learned that the Australian "Outback" can be an unfriendly place with some of the world's most deadly snakes, spiders, and assortments of other nasty creatures.

While Senior was away, HM2 Bradshaw had his hands full. He spearheaded the delivery of Smallpox to the MEU, as well as organized and taught the new Combat Lifesaver's Course to



HM2 Don O. Bradshaw, High Risk Personnel Protection platoon corpsman, shows Sgt. Osvaldo A. Medrano, High Risk Personnel Protection platoon member, shows his tight shot group during an HRRP live-fire exercise aboard the USS Peleliu Mar. 2.

Command Element Marines. This new standardized course is designed to greatly improve the first aid skills of Marines so that they can stabilize and treat casualties in the absence of other medical providers. From the feedback provided by the Marines, the class was a resounding success, and HM2 will be continuing to teach more Marines as the deployment progresses.

So far so good. The Medical Department continues to improve readiness and training in order to improve the ability of each Marine and sailor to carry out the MEU mission. As with every medical department, we are CG-1, "Standing By, ready to assist." See you next time.....

S3 puts rounds down range

During March the S3 planned and conducted a full mission profile during a Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS).

We took a break March 6 to take part in a Steel Beach Picnic to celebrate our crossing of the Equator. March 13 we finally moved ashore into Townsville, Australia to conduct the first of our training exercises. The S3 spent its time working hard coordinating training and "putting rounds down range" in order to play hard during the port visit scheduled for March 19 - 21, but, unfortunately, Mother Nature intervened in the form of Tropical Cyclone Larry. While the cyclone did not affect our training, we cancelled the liberty port, deciding to push up north to the city-state of Singapore. Following the port visit to Singapore, the "land of eternal summer," the S3 continued planning and training for future exercises.



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Riglesberger, nuclear, biological and chemical force protection chief, yells commands to shooters during a High Risk Personnel Protection live-fire exercise aboard the USS Peleliu March 2.



CWO3 Robert A. Garcia, nuclear, biological and chemical force protection officer, gets work done even while he is waiting to be transported back to the USS Peleliu aboard a landing craft utility after completing sustainment training March 17 in Australia. After the training ashore, the Marines expected some liberty. However, because of Tropical Cyclone Larry, libo was cancelled. Instead, the 11th MEU decided to push north to the city-state of Singapore for a little R&R. Following the port visit to Singapore, the "land of eternal summer," the S3 continued planning and training for future exercises.

Headquarters Commandant trains, keeps busy during six month deployment

During this past month, we celebrated Cpl. Trisha Rodriguez's birthday with a cake and a party. It was the same day we passed over the equator. After the party, Rodriguez went to the side of the ship to look out over the Western Pacific Ocean in search of the elusive floating "Golden Buoy" that marks the location of the Equator.

Sgt. Loftin has continued to maintain the quality of living for the Marines of the Command Element in the E-5-and-below berthing area. When we have down time, everyone tries to stay busy, whether it is going to the gym or watching their favorite television series on dvd. Motor transport section continues to do their weekly vehicle start-ups and maintenance even while on ship. To do this maintenance, the Marines must go down to the "sweat box," an area deep inside the bowels of the ship. If any Marine ever wants to go sit in a sauna, all they have to do is just go on down to the forward "lower v" of the ship. That has been the toughest part of the ship in which to do motor transport work.

In March we also had four Marines go ashore in Australia. Sgt. Alberto G. Alaniz and Sgt. Coy P. Loftin, went as part of the High Risk Personnel Protection detachment and MSgt. Kevin Bonds and Sgt. Jorge F. Guardado, went to train and to arrange for accommodations for the Marines and sailors. Lets not forget to mention the smoke deck Gestapo, Staff Sgt. Callahan. If you get him upset he can secure your liberty and have you cleaning the smoke pit in a heartbeat.

In March, we also had a Steel Beach Picnic. Staff Sgt. Gustavo M. Lucio and Staff Sgt. Callahan volunteered to cook for the event. Also, Sgt. Steven Sparks continues to do the first echelon operations maintenance checks to ensure all headquarters commandant vehicles are up and running. Cpl. Samuel Schauer continues to be an early bird by getting up in the morning to check weapons out for training and continues to keep a strict count on all Command Elements gear in the armory. Well, it's time for us to high tail and get some work done, but you will hear some more from us next month.



Staff Sgt. Robert B. Callahan, motor transport chief, command element, demonstrates the proper way to give a horizontal butt-stroke during a Marine Corps Martial Arts sustainment class at the hangar bay of the ship. Callahan, who currently holds a tan belt, is striving for the next level, the grey belt. The martial arts class is just another activity Marines can do aboard the USS Peleliu.



Sgt. Alberto G. Alaniz, motor transport mechanic, prepares to engage his target during a High Risk Personnel Protection training exercise aboard the Peleliu March 4. The objective of the training exercise was to sharpen the platoon's shooting skills, improve muscle memory in handling weapons and to increase the quickness and accuracy in hitting a target. These are all skills the members of the highly trained platoon will need when and if they are called upon to do their jobs in a dangerous environment.

The training the platoon has received is different from any of the training the team is used to because it is contrary to traditional Marine Corps tactics that stress standing your ground and attacking the source of fire.

"This training is very important because we have to be extremely well trained and prepared because you never know who we might have to protect," said Alaniz, a Santa Ana, Calif., resident.

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Steel Beach Picnic...



(Left) Staff Sgts. Gustavo M. Lucio, motor transport operations chief, and Michael G. Heard, postal chief, get ready to serve up some hamburgers at the Steel Beach Picnic on the flightdeck of the USS Peleliu.



(Left) Staff Sgt. Hugo R. Duran, warehouse chief, Gunnery Sgt. Michael A. Starks, admin chief, Gunnery Sgt. Rick A. Garcia, supply chief, and Master Sgt. Kevin Bonds, headquarters commandant, catch some rays at the Steel Beach Picnic aboard the USS Peleliu.

(Right) Sgt. Donna C. Crim, communications operator, gets her grub on at the Steel Beach event on the flightline here. The celebration was held to commemorate the USS Peleliu crossing the Equator.



(Left) Supply section's Cpl. Brandon T. Dean and Sgt. Rodney J. Redhead, admin clerk, duke-it-out with some over-sized boxing gloves at the Steel Beach event on the flightline here. Games, food and fun was part of the 11th MEU's celebration.



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Life Aboard the Peleliu...



Staff Sgt. Robert B. Callahan, motor transportation maintenance chief, Sgt. Marlena K. Helm, switchboard operator, Sgt. Jorge F. Guardado, motor transport mechanic, look on as Sgt. Mark K. McCue, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor, teaches them how to do a proper rifle butt stroke during MCMAP refresher training aboard the Peleliu. Marines on the ship have been training in all levels of martial arts, ranging from tan thru black belt and will continue to conduct MCMAP training throughout the MEU's six-month deployment. The MCMAP training focuses on building leadership and character.



Lance Cpl. Travis C. Hunter, bulk fuel pumper, assembles an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon Machine Gun during weapons, convoy security, and radio operation refresher training aboard the Peleliu.

(Below) Cpl. Joshua Chapman, administration clerk, works on his "guns" at the Peleliu gym. When Chapman is not working out, he likes to watch movies on his portable dvd player in the berthing area. "He's got a nice little set-up," said his buddy, Cpl. Hugo C. Villanueva, admin clerk. "He lives in the top rack, so he is able to mount his dvd player from the pipes overhead. Then, all he has to do is lay down and enjoy the show."



Sgt. Jose L. Lomeli gives Staff Sgt. Antonio Serrano a shipboard haircut. Since there are no professional barbers stationed aboard the Peleliu, Marines must rely on their buddies to cut their hair. Although most haircuts turn out well, some results leave Marines feeling grateful that hair grows back quickly and that aboard ship, they do not have anyone to impress.

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twelve

The 11th MEU explores Singapore...





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Home Phone: _____

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Spouse: _____

Rank: _____

Unit/Company: _____

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11TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT
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FPO AP 96610-2520